

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a process for producing a contact adhesive.

In this Amendment, previously pending claims 9-20 have been cancelled, and new claims 21-32 are added herein. It is respectfully submitted that claims 21-32 now pending comply with all statutory requirements and obviate various objections and rejections that were set forth in the Office Action dated May 6, 2003.

In that Office Action, *inter-alia*, the Examiner indicated that claim 13 could be objected to as being a duplicate of claim 12. Furthermore, the Examiner objected to claims 9 and 18 with respect the substituent R², which the Examiner indicated could only be a methyl group. Claim 11 was objected to as failing to further limit a claim on which it depended. Claim 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 with respect to the bases of the percent range recited in those claims. Turning to the prior art, claims 9-13 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 4,593,068 (Hirose). Claims 9-13, 16, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hirose in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,150,464 (Medskar). Claims 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Medskar further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,359,111 (Kleyer). Lastly, claims 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) based on Kawamura (EP 525,769).

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Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 21-32 obviate the several objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action, and should be considered patentable over the cited art, including for the reasons set forth below.

The claimed process, which requires a reaction step in the presence of a sulfur compound, is not anticipated by Hirose or Kawamura because neither Hirose nor Kawamura disclose a sulfur compound at all, as the Examiner has recognized.

The claimed process is not obvious over Hirose in view of Medsker. This is because Medsker describes that important to the efficiency of the catalyst is that the oils and other additives contain no or very low concentrations of compounds that are catalyst inhibitors or that interfere with the activity of the catalyst (col. 10, lines 32-35), and that the presence of Lewis bases such as sulfides or thiols has a surprisingly detrimental impact on hydrosilylation curing (col 10, lines 41-43).

Thus Medsker actually teaches away from the asserted combination of Hirose with Medsker.

The Examiner's indication that the motivation is to substantially promote the efficiency of a platinum catalyst used for hydrosilylation involves an apparent misunderstanding. Contrary

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to the Examiner's impression, Medsker does not teach that Lewis bases promote the efficiency of the catalyst, but rather, Medsker teaches that Lewis bases inhibit the catalyst.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of now pending claims 21-32 of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited.

The Examiner's indication of the correct No. JP 3-263478 on the acknowledged PTO-1449 Form (actually replacement Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified)) is appreciated.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C., telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

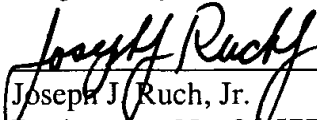
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